

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 6, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Optimizing, at least from the optical standpoint, the thicknesses and refractive indices of the antireflection coating layers has been the subject of numerous publications. With regard to four-layer antireflection coatings, which offer a good compromise between the desired antireflection effect of the product and its manufacturing cost, mention may be made, for example, of ~~patent~~ U.S. Patent No. 3,432,225, describing multilayer stacks of the $(\text{ZrO}_2/\text{MgF}_2)_2$ type, U.S. Patent No. 3,565,509, describing multilayer stacks of the $(\text{CeO}_2/\text{MgF}_2)_2$ or $(\text{CeO}_2/\text{SiO}_2)_2$ $(\text{CeO}_2/\text{SiO}_2)_2$ type, and the publication "All-oxide broadband antireflection coating ..." by N. Buehler et al., 15 August 1998 (Applied Optics Vol. 27, No. 16) describing $(\text{TiO}_2/\text{SiO}_2)_2$ $(\text{TiO}_2/\text{SiO}_2)_2$ multilayer stacks.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 31, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Thus, measures may be taken to ensure that at least one of the low-index layers of the antireflection multilayer stack is based on a mixture of silicon oxide and aluminium oxide (optionally a fluorinated mixture). Preferably, the last layer of the multilayer stack is based on a mixture of silicon oxide and aluminum oxide because such a "mixed" oxide layer has better durability, especially chemical durability, than a pure SiO_2 layer. The optimum amount of aluminium in the layer is selected in order to obtain this better durability but without excessively increasing the refractive index of the layer with respect to that of pure silica in order not to affect the optical antireflection properties. Aluminium oxide ~~having in fact~~ has an index of about 1.60 to 1.65, which is greater than that of SiO_2 which is about 1.45. The preferred atomic percentage of Al with respect to Si is, for example, from 5 to 20%, preferably about 8 to 12%, and more preferably about 10%. It is not excluded, however, for at

least one of the layers, namely a low-index layer, in the multilayer stack to be a low-index "multilayer," in a similar manner to the high-index "multilayer" of the fourth method of realizing the invention as discussed above.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY